

**Central and East Lawrence Elementary School Consolidation Working Group  
October 17, 2011, Meeting Minutes**

1. **Make Up of Subcommittee:** The following members will represent their respective school groups on the liaison subcommittee to the school board: David Unekis, Pinckney; Chris Lempa, New York; Daisy Wakefield, Sunset Hill; Chuck Epp, Cordley; Michelle Iwig-Harmon, Woodlawn; Dawn Shew, Kennedy; and Dennis Hill, Hillcrest.
  
2. **Data Sharing:** Superintendent Rick Doll presented elementary transfer, English as a Second Language (ESL) and socio-economic (SES) student data. John Wilkins with Gould Evans Associates presented school floor plans and updated capacity information.
  
3. **Equity Discussion:** In small groups, members discussed the role of equity in relationship to the group's charge and the definition of equity.
  - Equity is not equality.
  - Equity is providing what students need, but not at the expense of other students.
  - A student's color or socio-economic background should not be a predictor in his/her academic success or the graduation rate.
  - Each child has an equal opportunity to succeed when schools equitably provide resources according to each child's needs.
  - Keep school and class size as priorities, so students have more contact with teachers and receive greater paraeducator assistance.
  - Equity is meeting the different needs of different students, including challenging gifted students to improve.
  - Equity is more than having two shoes; it's having two shoes that fit.
  - Equity involves fairness and recognition of the differential needs of students.

Small groups discussed suggested criteria against which to measure future proposals:

- It's important to look at the individual needs of students instead of just providing classrooms of equal size.
- Access to technology is important, especially for low-income students who may not have access to technology at home.
- Ensure that students' basic needs are met with full-time support staff.
- Allocate support staff at levels recommended for serving challenged populations.
- Design facilities with sufficient room for support staff.
- Keep class sizes/school sizes within recommended ranges for serving challenged populations.
- Equity in playground equipment is important.
- Provide adequate paraeducator support.
- One small group is uncomfortable with elementary school sizes larger than 400.

- Consolidating schools that serve the highest at-risk populations is a concern.
  - Consolidation shouldn't create a school with a greater #/% of low SES, ESL, racial diversity, etc. without providing additional resources.
  - Provide healthy classroom environments (air quality, natural light, etc.)
  - Focus on the school district's goal to close achievement gaps.
- 4. Agenda Setting:** Group members will start to brainstorm proposals, beginning by reacting to scenarios considered by the previous Lawrence Elementary School Facilities Vision Task Force. Individual members should send their ideas/proposals to the co-facilitators ( [kames-oliver@ku.edu](mailto:kames-oliver@ku.edu) and [goodyear@ku.edu](mailto:goodyear@ku.edu) ) in advance of the next meeting. If representatives plan to meet as a group, they should notify the superintendent ( [rdoll@usd497.org](mailto:rdoll@usd497.org) ) of the meeting, so he can give public notice.
- 5. Information Requests:** Group members requested the following data be provided as soon as it is available:
- Link to Task Force scenarios ( <http://www.usd497.org/ElementaryTaskForce/> )
  - Corrected elementary transfer chart (BA, LH, PP, SF rows do not add up).
  - The total number of elementary transfer requests.
  - Visual representation of capacity data.
  - Information about where Cordley and Hillcrest English Language Learners reside.
  - A presentation from principals/teachers/staff about the district's ESL program philosophy.
  - A summary of the Governor's current budget proposals.
  - ESL/SES data for all elementary schools.
  - Race/ethnicity student data
  - Feedback from the administration regarding the benefits/ramifications of a New York/Kennedy consolidation.
  - Research/information about "best practice/industry standard" with regard to size of school site and size of classrooms.
  - Information about which districts use 25 students as their baseline ratio.
- 6. Subcommittee Questions for School Board:** Superintendent Rick Doll will share updated capacity information and student data with the school board and place a discussion with the subcommittee on the board's agenda for Monday, October 24.

The subcommittee will ask the board for clarification of the advisory group's charge with/without passage of a school bond issue and reinforcement of the group's charge in light of the updated capacity data/unexpected elementary enrollment increase. The group also will ask the board if they have other creative ideas, such as magnet school concepts, for the group to consider.

**7. Meeting Evaluation:**

- All data presenters should remain neutral.
- Keep the meeting room tables arranged in a large square.
- Continue to break up into small groups for discussion of proposals.
- Members appreciate the respectful tone of the discussion.

**Meeting Schedule:** November 7 and 21; December 5 and 19; and January 2, 16 and 30. All meetings will be held from 7-9 p.m. (meeting room available at 6:45 p.m.) in the Multi-Purpose Room of the School District Office, 110 McDonald Drive.